Dear colleagues,

For the last 10 days we have had to resort to home office and full digital education again. I must admit that even I am struggling to keep my spirits high now. 😞😞

On the positive side, the pandemic forced us to become literate in a variety of digital tools for teaching, meetings, seminars, and conferences. I think all these tools will be valuable for us also after the pandemic, as a supplement in our educational efforts and to help us reduce some of our travel activity. However, as the time gets extended where we cannot go back to our normal activities, I am getting more and more concerned about the future of Norway. We have a lot of important challenges to deal with, and we need a properly educated work force and proper international collaboration in research to be able to cope with these.

I am in particular worried about our students who started their studies this semester. Perhaps they have not yet found friends or peers to discuss with. They have not yet been to inter disciplinary seminars and lectures, presentations of companies and career opportunities, social gatherings, and all of that what forms a university education, in addition to regular lectures, exercise and lab sessions, and excursions. Providing our teaching in a digital format is perhaps not a big problem. However, the absence of opportunities for extracurricular activities, discussions, meeting peers across other disciplines, meeting researchers and getting involved in their research activities, do in fact form a serious problem. Without all these activities, we cannot really provide a proper education for our students. I worry that especially the new students might lose their motivation for a university education before they really see what it is all about.

I also see that our research has started to suffer. The feedback I get from many of you, indicates that ongoing collaborations are not so difficult to continue on digital platforms. However, starting new research collaborations and new projects is definitely harder when not being able to meet physically. In my own experience, most of my collaborative research results have been initiated during research visits or from random conversations with colleagues at conferences upon talks we’d just listened to. Since March, we do not have the possibility for any of that.

Usually I am the one saying that we should make the best out of the situation. So why am I whining about this right now? Because I am worried that the authorities might consider “turning universities fully digital” as an easy-to-implement long time measure for the rest of the pandemic. It is our duty to tell them what a bad idea this is, at every single opportunity.

But let me, as always, conclude on a positive note. A lot of new things are happening and there is a lot to be proud of. We are involved in a number of SFF proposals, in addition to an SFF proposal being coordinated by our department. We are launching new EVU projects involving online courses for introduction to programming, introduction to digital security, and introduction to machine learning. Our CEDAS is growing in scope and gaining recognition, coordinating research efforts in data science and artificial intelligence throughout our university. Our Thursday department seminar starts (albeit digitally) on September 24, and it has a full program for many weeks ahead with talks which I am sure that you will all find highly interesting. The first three are announced in this very newsletter!

I wish you a very nice weekend!

Pinar
**DENNE UKEN FOREGÅR** nesten all undervisning ved Universitetet i Bergen digitalt, slik som det gjorde i andre halvdel av forrige semester.

Sommern 2020 har vært en spesiell tid for undervisere og studiepersonell ved UiB. De aller fleste måtte bruke sommeren til å forberede høstens undervisning på en helt ny måte.

Vi har lagt opp all undervisning slik at den skal kunne følges både ved fysisk tilstedeværelse og via nett. Undervisningsrom har blitt tilrettelagt på en slik måte at de tar in mot en brokdel av sin opprinnelige kapasitet, og studentene har blitt inndelt i mindre grupper.

Alle får tilbud om fysisk undervisning, samtidig som de kan følge alt på nett, dersom de ikke kan møte opp på grunn av karantene eller sykdom.

**ET ENORMT MASKINÆR** av både underviser og teknisk og administrativ stab jobbet gjennom hele sommeren, samt dag og natt de første to ukene av semesteret, for å tilrettelegge alt dette. Var det verdt det?

Ja, så absolutt!

**Å KUNNE ÖNSKE** alle studenter fysisk velkommen, spesielt de ferske, har vært en ubeskriverlig glede. Å se de oppvakte, nysgjerrige og spente ansiktene, å se Norges fremtid rett foran seg. Å kunne snakke med dem i samme rom og la dem bli kjent med hverandre og med universitetet, har vært uvurderlig.

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Smitte-situasjonen i Bergen har nå gjort det nødvendig å gå over til nærmest full digital undervisning, skriver professor Pinar Heggersnes.

Smitte-situasjonen i Bergen har nå gjort det nødvendig å gå over til nærmest full digital undervisning for en periode. Nasjonalt vurderes dette som et permanent tiltak.

Rektor Svein Stolen ved Universitetet i Oslo advarte mot dette i VG i forrige uke. Han er med rette bekymret for at dette kan føre til stort frafall fra studiene.

**Hvorfor er vi som jobber med studenter så oppatt av deres fysiske tilstedeværelse på universitetene?**

Hvorfor kan de ikke bare være hjemme og studere på nett?

Det er fordi en universitetsudannelse er så mye mer enn å følge undervisning i en studieprogram. En slik utdannelse gir generiske ferdigheter og dannelsen gjennom diskusjoner med medstudenter, undervisere og forskere.

**FORSKNINGSBASERT UNDervisning, som fremheves i UiB sin strategi, krever kontakt mellom studenter og forskningsmiljø utenfor reguleret undervisning.**

Å kunne delta på seminarer, debatter og arrangementer initiativ av forskningsmiljøene, er like viktig i et utdanningsløp som fagene studentene følger.

**UTEN ALT DETTE** blir utdanningen ved universitetene redusert til nett kurs. Studentene får undervisning, men ikke fullverdig utdanning. Norge får ikke den fremtidige arbeidsskadetekningen vi trenger, for at takle de mange utfordringene de venter oss.

La oss fortsatt få tilrettelegging for fysisk og digital utdannelse samtidig, gjennom denne pandemien.

Å sende studentene hjem og gå over til langvarig full digital undervisning må være det aller siste tiltaket regjeringen urverger, dersom man ikke får kontroll på pandemien.
Corona updates and reminders

Official instructions: **Home office until September 22:**

- Everybody who can work, study and perform their duties from home, are to have home office

- Campus is not closed, and it is not forbidden to go the department. Those who need their office to perform their duties can still work from campus. Everybody can fetch things they might need from their offices.

- Students are also strongly encouraged to work and study from home. However, it is not forbidden to use the campus or the reading rooms if this is necessary for their studies.

- Lectures and group sessions are to be performed online for all courses until September 22. There will be appropriate announcements via MittUiB.

- Lecturers are welcome to use their regular lecture halls to lecture for an “empty” hall and to use the regular equipment to record their lectures. All students must refrain from physical lectures and rather follow the lectures online until September 22.

- The maximum allowed number of participants in all kinds of meetings is reduced to 50. Our university recommends the cancellation of all larger physical meetings, and if possible move them to digital platforms.

- Face masks are now recommended in public transport in Bergen.

Other reminders:

- Please keep one meter social distance at all times and wash hands frequently.

- If on campus: no more than two people at the same time in the elevators. Stick to the right side when ascending or descending the stairs.

- Nobody is allowed on campus at night (between midnight and 06:00).

- All travels abroad and guests from abroad need to be discussed with Pinar or Linda before making plans and sending invitations. Recall that the recommendation from the Norwegian government is that one should avoid all travels abroad that are not strictly necessary. This applies to all countries regardless of whether they are in Europe, green, red, or gray.

- All employees are asked to make sure that they have registered their mobile number in the HR portal. This is for urgent messages by sms from the UiB leadership and to make it easier to follow up infection tracking if needed. How to do this: New form – Personal and family information – add your mobile phone number and chose “No” to “private mobile phone” (or else your mobile phone number will not be accessible in the phonebook) – move next to page 3 – Send. When you have already opened this form – please also check that your next of kin is added.

- Please follow the information on these pages frequently: [UiB Corona info](#), [Info from the government](#), [Info from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health](#)

### Overview of Department Thursday seminars booked so far this semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker/Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 24*</td>
<td><strong>Torstein Strømme</strong>, trial lecture in connection with recruitment of Associate Professor in Informatics, fagformidling og utdanning (ICT didactics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1*</td>
<td><strong>Crystal Chang Din</strong>, trial lecture in connection with recruitment of Associate Professor in Informatics, fagformidling og utdanning (ICT didactics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 8*</td>
<td><strong>Emre Yaksi</strong>, <em>Neural circuit computations in zebrafish brain</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29**</td>
<td><strong>Speed Talks</strong> (Sjur Flåm, NN and NN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5**</td>
<td><strong>Stefanie Meyer</strong> – funding sources and research advisor’s services</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 19*</td>
<td><strong>Enrico Motta</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26**</td>
<td><strong>HSE seminar</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3**</td>
<td><strong>Speed Talks</strong> (Sayan Bandyapadhyay, Ana Ozaki and NN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10*</td>
<td><strong>Aidan Hogan</strong>: <em>Knowledge Graphs: Research Directions</em></td>
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*seminar on Zoom
**seminar at VilVite auditorium
**Election for new safety delegates**

Please find information in English on Safety delegates' tasks, organization and election [here](#).

Valg av verneombud ved UiB for perioden 2021-2022 er i gang. Ved UiB velges verneombud på alle nivå og alle ansatte kan foreslå kandidater til:

- Lokale verneombud
- Hovedverneombud
- Universitets hovedverneombud

Verneombudet er viktig for arbeidsplassen, kollegaer og arbeidsgiver. UiBs verneombud er arbeids-takernes representanter i arbeidsmiljøsaker og er engasjerte, tydelige og godt kvalifiserte.

**Verneombudene ved UiB:**

- er viktige samarbeidspartnere for ledelsen i det systematiske HMS-arbeidet
- har et støttende nettverk med faste møter
- får faglig påfyll og kompetansehevingstiltak

[Her kan du lese mer om valget og foreslå kandidater.](#)

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**Interdisciplinarity in doctoral research**

The Coimbra Group, which UiB is a member of, is interested in finding ways to foster research collaboration and visibility, to improve the research environment in member universities and to increase the impact of research results on society.

In a survey designed by the “Doctoral Studies Working Group”, we would like to find out what researchers (doctoral and postdoctoral students/researchers, PhD advisors/supervisors) think and feel about doing research in their field and home university. All answers are confidential and the survey takes approximately 10 minutes.

If people would like to get more details about the survey results, they can leave an e-mail address in the last line of the questionnaire. The results will be used for a Working Group Report and will be shared with all Coimbra Group universities. The link for the survey is [https://forms.gle/99gfJBAOqrK2CjZ9f7](https://forms.gle/99gfJBAOqrK2CjZ9f7). Participation is possible until **30 September, 2020**.

Thank you for your time and involvement!
ICT Research School Annual Meeting 2020
The ICT Research School 2020 is going to take place on 26-27 October 2020 in Park Hotel Vossevangen. We would like to encourage all PhD students enrolled in the department's PhD program to join. Regular registration ended on 2 August. Please contact the organization committee if you missed the deadline.

The ICT Research School's annual meeting is organized by and for PhD candidates at the Department of Informatics. The aim of this meeting is to strengthen networking and collaboration among the research school's PhD candidates, as well as to give them the opportunity to hold a seminar/lecture on an individually selected subject to complete the dissemination part of the training component. If you have any questions, please contact Alessandro Budroni, Nooshin Heidari or Dan Zhang

UiB Department of Informatics Writing Workshop 2020 – Registration is now open!
Welcome to the Department of Informatics Writing Workshop 2020 (23-27 November 2020)! The aim of this workshop is to learn about clear and concise writing and to motivate each other to communicate our science in the best possible way! Registration is now open. Registration deadline is 19 October 2020. Please find more detailed information here.

Research, Science and Seminars ScienceNorway.no - forskning.no

Trial lectures in connection with recruitment of Associate Professor
Torstein Strømme and Crystal Chang Din will give trial lectures in connection with recruitment for Associate Professor in Informatics, fagformidling og utdanning (ICT didactics).

Torstein Strømme
Trial lecture on September 24, at 14:15, zoom

Crystal Chang Din
Trial lecture on October 1st, at 14:15, zoom

The lectures will be held in Norwegian, and both candidates have been given the following topic:

Forklar rekursjon og hvordan det henger sammen med iterasjon. Du kan anta at tilhørerne er førsteårsstudenter som er kjent med vanlig bruk av for- og while-løkker i Python samt funksjonskall. Hvis tiden tillater det kan du berøre områder som for eksempel overforbruk av minne på stakken (eng. stack exhaustion) og optimering av halerekursjon.

Further announcement with zoom participation link will be sent to all by email shortly.

Does your research or student project involve personal data? – Then you have to register your project in RETTE!

The following information is available only in Norwegian: RETTE står for Risiko og ETTErlevelse i forskningsprosjekter, og er UiBs system for oversikt og kontroll med behandling av personopplysninger i forsknings- og studentprosjekter. All behandling av personopplysninger ved UiB skal registreres i UiBs forskningsprosjektoversikt RETTE, i samsvar med kravet i personvernforordningen artikkel 30 (krav om protokoll). Dette gjelder all behandling av personopplysninger i forskningsprosjekter, studentoppgaver på alle nivå (metodeoppgaver, bacheloroppgaver, masteroppgaver, kvalitetssikringsprosjekter og prosjekter i forbindelse med læringsanalyseformål. Kravet gjelder også når behandlingsansvaret deles med andre behandlingsansvarlige (samarbeidsprosjekter).

Alle som behandler personopplysninger for formål knyttet til forskning, utdanning, undervisning og kvalitetssikring, enten du er forsker under forskerutdanning, student eller ansatt har plicht til å registrere tilsvarende prosjekter i RETTE.
Welcome to Department seminar on October 8: Emre Yaksi

Neural circuit computations in zebrafish brain

Abstract:

The Yaksi Lab at the Kavli Institute is an interdisciplinary group of life scientists, engineers, clinicians and physicists, combining approaches from multiple disciplines to understand how our brains are wired, function, and how they may fail in neurological diseases. Our core interest is to understand how sensory information interacts with the internally generated dynamics of the brain, representing animals’ behavioral states or emotions. To achieve this, we image neural activity from thousands of individual neurons in behaving animals and try to interpret these huge neural data sets by using simple applied mathematics. We also perturb neural circuit activity by using genetic and optical methods, in a way similar to systems identification approaches in engineering.

We focus on habenula, a conserved brain region associated with predicting potential outcomes, learning and mood disorders. We revealed that habenula act as a major hub integrating sensory information with the internal dynamics of the brain. We showed that different subnetworks of this circuitry are born during distinct developmental stages and serve different functions. Finally, we showed that perturbation of these circuits interferes with the animals’ ability to integrate new information during learning.

I hope that we can use this seminar as a way to build bridges between our brain research and the AI community in Bergen. I will try to present some of our results, to initiate discussion about possible collaborations.

Published: 14.09.2020
Publishing Open Access

The University of Bergen Library has prepared very good websites on the current status of local, national and international open access (OA) policies as well as their services related to OA publishing. Please have a look at their websites and make yourself familiar with the different policies as well as the existing publishing deals with several of the academic publishers. Furthermore, UiB has a publication fund for OA that can cover the article processing charges (APC) when publishing in eligible open access journals.

Before you (your group) pay(s) any fees for making an article openly available, please consult the webpages to see if you are entitled to a discount, may get the fees refunded through the publication fund, or maybe don't even have to pay anything based on an existing agreement with the publisher!

If you have questions, please contact the department’s research coordinator Stefanie Meyer.

Upcoming funding opportunities

On a monthly basis, the department releases a comprehensive overview over upcoming funding opportunities on its website for research support services. Please inform research coordinator Stefanie Meyer about all planned and ongoing funding applications! This includes both applications you coordinate yourself, and those where you are included as a partner/collaborator! At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls and funding/research-related events:

IKTPLUSS. The Research Council has an open call on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. “The objective of this call is to further develop expertise and capacity in artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomous systems. Efforts are to help to move the research front, build vital competence and create new opportunities for people and society in the short and long term.”

Please note that these are collaborative projects where two or more of the project partners have to come from outside academia (i.e. the private or public sector), and have to stand for at least 10% of the effort. Application deadline: open-ended.

Researcher Projects 2021. To support scientific renewal and development in research, the Research Council plans to open several calls for researcher projects in early 2021. “Researcher projects are to contribute to important new insights, scientific publication, researcher training and international research collaboration.”

Currently, the following calls are planned:
- Researcher Projects for Scientific Renewal,
- Researcher Projects for Young Talents,
- Three-year Researcher Projects with International Mobility,
- Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Project.

Application deadline: 10 February 2021.
**INTPART - Funding for International Partnerships.** “Formålet med utlysningen er å utvikle verdensledende fagmiljøer i Norge gjennom langsiktig internasjonalt samarbeid. Norske forskningsorganisasjoner kan søke om midler til partnerskap med Brasil, Canada, India, Japan, Kina, Russland, Sør-Afrika og USA. Andre partnerskapsland kan bli inkludert i den endelige utlysningen.” More information about the call is available on the website. **Application deadline: 18 November 2020.**

**Centre for Environment-friendly Energy Research (FME).** “The aim of the Centres for Environment-friendly Energy Research (FME) is to address climate and energy challenges and contribute to business development. [RCN is] now issuing a call to establish an FME in the field of wind power. The centre awarded funding will strengthen the knowledge base required to develop a competitive Norwegian wind-power industry.” Please follow this link for more information. **Application deadline: 11 November 2020.**

**Project support in Global challenges.** To support cross-faculty collaboration in research & education within its strategic area “Global Challenges” (sub-topics migration, health and inequality), the university has issued a new funding call. You can apply for minimum 10 000 kr and maximum 100 000 kr to support the following activities until 24 March 2021: meetings, seminars, travels. Please contact the department’s research coordinator Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no for further details regarding this call. The department’s application deadline is 23 September 2020.

**Sabbatical for permanent scientific staff.** All at least 50%, permanently employed professors and associate professors can apply for a sabbatical and, if relevant, related travel funds. Please have a look at the faculty’s website for more information. **Application deadline: 1 October 2020.**

**UH-nett Vest funds for networking and project development.** To promote knowledge-based innovation and strengthen cooperation between the academic and non-academic sectors, UH-nett Vest has announced a call for seed funding. The funds are to be used for networking activities and project development. One prerequisite is that the applicants have concrete plans for preparing a larger funding application to e.g., RCN, EU, DIKU, or Innovation Norway. For more concrete information and a detailed list of requirements, please follow this link. **Application deadline: 15 October 2020.**

**Need help?**

*Please contact research coordinator Stefanie Meyer if you have questions with regard to your planned and ongoing funding applications as well as all contractual work related to external funds! All applications and agreements/contracts need to be approved by the department leadership. In addition, you can have a look at our websites for research support services. There you will find a list of our services.*
**Did you know?**

**Open Research Europe.** “Open Research Europe will be a scholarly publishing platform providing a full open access peer reviewed publishing service for Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe beneficiaries at no cost to them, during and after the end of their grants.”

Learn more about Open Research Europe here.

**The Research Whisperer.** The Research Whisperer is a blog managed by Tseen Khoo and Jonathan O’Donnell. It is “dedicated to the topic of doing research in academia. [They] talk about finding funding, research culture, and building academic track-records.”

Learn more about effective grantseeking here.

**European Research and Innovation Days.** “European Research and Innovation Days is the European Commission’s annual flagship event, bringing together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and citizens to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond.” Event: 22-24 September 2020. Registration is now open.

**Norwegian launch of Horizon Europe.** The Research Council of Norway, Innovation Norway, the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries invite you to a virtual event on Horizon Europe, the next research and innovation framework programme of the EU. Focus topics include: What is new in Horizon Europe? Horizon Europe in the Norwegian context. Possibilities for Norwegian actors and how even more of them can be successful. Meet and greet with researchers and companies that contribute to creating job opportunities and solve key societal challenges, with support from the EU. Event: 26 October 2020. Registration is now open.

**Cancelled: How to write competitive ERC Starting & Consolidator Grant applications.** The University of Bergen (UiB), together with Enspire Science and The Research Council of Norway, organize a workshop about ERC Starting and Consolidator Grant writing. Event: 2 December 2020. Registration deadline: 26 November 2020.

**Video academy to design and write competitive ERC proposals.** “Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, [UiB] cannot offer a physical course this year, but you can learn all about the ERC whenever it suits you wherever you have internet access.” Basic course: 4 – 17 November 2020. Beyond Academy: 18 November – 4 December 2020. Registration deadline: 19 October – 1 November 2020.

Vacant positions

PhD position in Data Science at the Department of Mathematics

Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 30.09.2020.

HR matters - Welfare – HSE (Health, Safety and Environment)

Velkommen til «Loppemarked» i Kalfarveien 31 tirsdag 22.september

I forbindelse med diverse flytteprosjekter ved sentraladministrasjonen i løpet av høsten, driver vi nå å rydder i Kalfarveien 31, og gjør klar for at nye avdelinger skal flytte inn. Pr nå har vi litt overskudd av eldre kontormøbler, andre småmøbler, masse stoler i ulike varianter, og litt diverse ting og tang. Vi ønsker å gi dette bort til ansatte ved UIB, og håper tingene kan få forlenget liv hos noen andre, enten på UIB, hjemme, på en hytte, i et klubbhus eller andre steder.


Vi kjerer «Førstemann til mølla»-prinsippet, så her er det bare å hive seg rundt, men på grunn av koronarestriksjonene i Bergen pr i dag, har vi kun lov til å ha inne 50 personer om gangen. Så om det blir mange på en gang må man vente i kø utenfor.

Inngangen til «loppemarkedet» er i 1.etg i hovedbygget. Her er møblene fordelt på to soner i 1.etg og en sone i 2.etg. I «Paviljongen» er det to soner i 1.etg. I tillegg er det også en del kontor i begge byggene hvor det står kontorpulter (med faste bein) som gis bort.

Vi håper at dette høres spennende ut, og at mange vil ta turen!

Mvh,
Eiendomsavdelingen UIB

Ergonomic assessment of office workplaces on October 21

UiB’s physiotherapist will visit us on Wednesday 21st October at 09:00-12:00. Her mission is to help us with ergonomic assessment of our new employees’ office workplaces.

If you are not among the new employees since February 2020, but still want us to visit you for an ergonomic assessment of your office workplace – please sign up by sending an email to Linda Vagtskjold.

UiB innfører arbeidsmiljøpris

For å synliggjøre og stimulere innsatsen for et godt arbeidsmiljø vil Universitetet i Bergen fra og med 2020 dele ut en årlig arbeidsmiljøpris i form av diplom og en prispott på kr. 75.000,-.

Arbeidsmiljøprisen kan tildelas enkeltpersoner, fakultet, avdelinger, seksjoner, fagmiljø, grupper eller enheter, og alle ansatte og studenter kan fremme forslag til kandidater til arbeidsmiljøprisen. Forslaget må inneholde en kortfattet begrunnelse (maks én side) og sendes HR-avdelingen.

Den årlige fristen for å fremme forslag til kandidater til arbeidsmiljøprisen vil være 1. oktober. Les mer om arbeidsmiljøprisen her.
Introduction seminar for new employees, October 15

There is still available space for the UiB introduction seminars held this fall. We encourage you to sign up! A lot of relevant information for your daily life as UiB employee will be addressed, answering a lot of questions we are sure you have. Sign up!

Some topics are:
- Work life in Norway
- Absence, short term, long term, parental leave, vacations and more
- Norwegian Social Insurance Scheme
- Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund
- Trade Unions
- Language courses

Please be assured we will do our best to uphold necessary Covid-19 regulations. If, under the circumstances, you are not comfortable to join in a classroom setting, please let us know and we will try and accommodate you.

Parking at the University

Anyone who parks in the University’s parking spaces must have a valid digital parking permit. Parking in reserved spaces also requires a separate digital parking permit which is managed by the unit that has use of the reserved space. Parking inspections of the University’s parking spaces take place around the clock. From 01.01.2021 all reserved spaces for units will be removed and paid parking will be introduced at UiB.

Please find detailed information about the parking scheme at the UiB here